



Gulf of the Farallones



Habitats

Coastal beaches
Rocky intertidal
Mud & tidal flats
Salt marsh
Esteros
Pelagic, open ocean
Deep benthos, continental shelf and slope

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

includes nurseries and spawning grounds for commercially valuable species, at least 33 species of marine mammals, and 15 species of breeding seabirds. One fifth of California's harbor seals breed within the sanctuary. The

Key Species

Dungeness crab
California gray whale
Stellar sea lion
Common Murre
Ashy Storm-petrel

Farallon Islands are home to the largest concentration of breeding seabirds in the continental United States. The sanctuary boundaries include the coastline up to mean high tide, protecting a number of lagoons, estuaries, bays, and beaches for the public.

Research Activities

The Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary brings monitoring and restoration, assessment, and development in a variety of research activities. Its monitoring program studies rocky intertidal habitats within the sanctuary. In the Beach Watch program volunteers are trained to conduct shoreline monitoring. Sanctuary workers are helping to restore marshes in Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay and working to reintroduce Common Murre populations to the outer coasts of the sanctuary. Development of a Geographical Information System (GIS) is part of sanctuary research endeavors. Assessments of pollutants in seabirds and Stellar sea lions and Ashy Storm-petrel population studies have been carried out.

Education Activities

Each year the Sanctuary Sea Camp holds a week-long summer camp for children. During the school year the sanctuary developed curriculum and teacher training to further marine protections. Ongoing community outreach involve seminars, presentations, and publications of marine programs.



Location
Along the coast of California north and west of San Francisco

Protected Area
1,255-square miles

Designation
January 1981

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*Above: Harbor seals;
left to right : gray
whale; kayakers and
fishermen share
Tomales Bay; Farallon
Island*

